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SIXTY-SIXTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE COUNCIL OF THE

ROYAL SCOTTISH ACADEMY

OF

PAINTING, SCULPTURE, AND
ARCHITECTURE

INSTITUTED 1826
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1893



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LIBRARY

Council and Office-Bearers

OF THE

ROYAL SCOTTISH ACADEMY

OF

Painting, Sculpture, and Architecture,

FOR THE YEAR ENDING 8TH NOVEMBER 1893.

Council.

SIR GEORGE REID, PRESIDENT.

W. BEATTIE-BROWN, Esq. JOHN SMART, Esq. J. LAWTON WINGATE, Esq.		J. DENOVAN ADAM, Esq. CLARK STANTON, Esq. D. W. STEVENSON, Esq.
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GEORGE HAY, Esq., SECRETARY.

JOHN HUTCHISON, Esq., TREASURER.


W. BEATTIE-BROWN, Esq. D. W. STEVENSON, Esq.	}	AUDITORS.
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OTTO T. LEYDE, Esq., LIBRARIAN.

W. BEATTIE-BROWN, Esq. JOHN SMART, Esq.	}	CURATORS OF LIBRARY.
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D. W. STEVENSON, Esq. WILLIAM HOLE, Esq. ROBERT M'GREGOR, Esq. ROBERT ALEXANDER, Esq.	}	VISITORS OF THE LIFE SCHOOL.
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CLARK STANTON, Esq., CURATOR OF LIFE SCHOOL.



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REPORT.

THE COUNCIL, for the year ending 8th November 1893, have to report to the Annual Assembly of Academicians as follows :—

I. The Sixty-seventh Exhibition was opened on Saturday the 4th of February, and was closed on Saturday, the 13th of May 1893. It contained 452 Paintings in Oil and Water-Colour, 29 works in Sculpture, 32 Architectural Drawings, and a number of Etchings. The number of pictures shown was considerably under that of recent years, in consequence of the effort to raise the standard of the work exhibited, and it is gratifying to record a very considerable increase in the attendance of the public.

II. At a Statutory Assembly of Academicians, held on 1st March, it was resolved that ten Artists be elected to the rank of Associate ; and at the Statutory General Assembly of the Academy, held on 29th March, the following gentlemen were elected, viz., Alexander Marshall Mackenzie, Architect, Aberdeen ; Robert B. Nisbet, William Birnie Rhind, Sculptor ; John James Burnet, Architect, Glasgow ; C. G. H. Kinnear, Architect ; Alexander Roche, Glasgow ; Henry W. Kerr, John Kinross, Architect ; David Robertson, Architect ; and J. Coutts Michie, Aberdeen.

III. The following is the Report of the Librarian and the Curators of the Library :—

“The books, drawings, and prints are in good order and catalogued up to date.

“The attendance of the students on Thursday nights has considerably fallen off ; but that of members and others has increased.

"The following works have been added to the Library, in addition to the principal British and French Art Periodicals and the Arundel Society's publications.

"Modern Athenians, a series of original Portraits of memorable Citizens of Edinburgh. Drawn and etched by Benjamin W. Crombie, Miniature Painter, 1837 to 1847. Now reprinted from the original plates, with new illustrated notes and biographical sketches, by William Scott Douglas. Edinburgh, 1882. Impl. 8vo.

"Engravings on Steel, by W. Miller, J. Horsburgh, E. Goodall, J. T. Willmore, W. Richardson, Henry Le Keux, etc., after drawings by J. M. W. Turner, R.A., for Sir Walter Scott's works. Sup. Royal 8vo.

"Pronosticatio in Latino, by John Lichtenberger. A reproduction of the first edition (printed at Strasburg 1488). Edited by W. Harry Rylands, F.S.A. Holbein Society, Manchester, 1890. Demy 4to.

"Memorial Catalogue—Heraldic Exhibition, Edinburgh. Edinburgh, 1892. Demy 4to.

"The Poetry of Architecture : or, the Architecture of the nations of Europe, considered in its association with natural scenery and national character. By John Ruskin, with illustrations by the Author. London, 1893. Demy 4to.

"Selections from the writings of John Ruskin, D.C.L., LL.D. First series, 1843-1860, with a portrait. Post 8vo.

"—— second series, 1860-1888. Post 8vo.

"Three Letters and an Essay, by John Ruskin, 1836-1841. Found in his tutor's desk, 1893." Post 8vo.

"The Master Masons to the Crown of Scotland and their Works. By Rev. Robert Scott Mylne, M.A., B.C.L. (Oxon.), F.S.A. (London). Edinburgh, 1893. Impl. 4to.

The following works have been presented to the Library :—

"Drawing and Engraving, a brief exposition of technical Principles and Practice, by Philip Gilbert Hamerton, with numerous illustrations. London and Edinburgh, 1892. Demy 8vo.

Presented by SIR GEORGE REID, P.R.S.A.

“ Etching, after portrait by Velasquez, of Don Gaspar de Guzman, Count of Olivarez, in the possession of the Right Hon. the Earl of Elgin, by William Hole, R.S.A.

Presented by THE ROYAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE PROMOTION OF
THE FINE ARTS IN SCOTLAND, 1892.

“ The Scottish Artists’ Club Album. Edinburgh, 1893. Impl. 4to.

Presented by THE CLUB.

“ Étude sur les Canons de Polyclète, par Adolphe Algret. Statuaire. Paris, 1892. Sup. Royal 8vo.

Presented by THE AUTHOR through ROBERT COX, Esq., Gorgie.

“ Twenty Proof Etchings by George Aikman, A.R.S.A., after Water-colour Drawings of ‘ The Golf Greens of Scotland,’ by John Smart, R.S.A.”

Presented by JOHN SMART, R.S.A.

“ Les Contes Rémois par M. Le C^{te} Louis de Chevigne Dessins de E. Meissonier. Paris, 1861. Fcap. 8vo.

“ Highlanders at Home,” by R. R. M’Ian, A.R.S.A., with descriptions by James Logan. London *n.d.* Demy Folio.

The above two Works presented by ALEX. FRASER, R.S.A.

(Signed) “ OTTO T. LEYDE, *Librarian.*
W. BEATTIE BROWN, *Curator.*
JOHN SMART, *Curator.*”

IV. The following additions have also been made to the Academy’s Works of Art, etc., during the past year:—

1. “ Midsummer,” by James Guthrie, R.S.A.

DIPLOMA WORK.

2. Portrait of Alexander Fraser, R.S.A., when a young man, by Sir William Fettes Douglas, P.R.S.A.

Presented by ALEXANDER FRASER, R.S.A.

The thanks of the President and Council were duly transmitted to the respective donors.

V. The Council have to report that the fifteen Water-colour Drawings, referred to in the Annual Report of 1891 as having been presented to the Academy by James Orrock, Esq., R.I., were, in compliance with his request, returned to him by the General Assembly of the Academy.

VI. The Visitors of the Life School report as follows :—

“The Session of 1892-93 commenced on the 7th November 1892, and ended on the 30th June 1893, having had 124 morning, and 126 evening meetings. The aggregate morning attendance was 1023, and the aggregate evening attendance 1004, giving an average attendance at each meeting of 8. The number on the Roll at the end of the Session was 13.

“During the Session 6 students retired and 2 were admitted.

“The Visitors of the Life School have much pleasure in commending the punctuality and diligence of the students throughout the Session.

“While bearing testimony to the high average of the year’s work, they feel it to be their duty to deprecate what seems to be a growing tendency on the part of many of the students to regard the Life Class as a studio rather than as a school ; and to call the attention of the Council to the fact that many of the studies, admirable as they may be, regarded independently as studies of tone and colour, bear too little resemblance to the actual facts of proportion, illumination, and colour, as exemplified in the subject before them.

(Signed) “D. W. STEVENSON, *Visitor*.
 WILLIAM HOLE, *Visitor*.
 ROBERT M’GREGOR, *Visitor*.
 ROBERT ALEXANDER, *Visitor*.”

The Studies in Colour and Drawings having been examined by the Council, they have pleasure in concurring with the opinion of the Visitors on the general excellency of the work done in the School.

The Council feel that they would be wanting in their duty did they allow this opportunity to pass without expressing

their high appreciation of the valuable services rendered by the Visitors in conducting the Life Class.

It is with regret the Council have to report the small number of designs sent in, in competition for the Stuart Prize—only one student of last session having submitted a design. The only other design sent in is by a student from the Board of Manufactures School, who has recently been admitted a probationer of the Academy's Life School. This state of matters is most unsatisfactory to the Council, and they would call attention to the motion on the subject of designs being regularly made by students during the session, which at an early date is to be brought before the Academy.

After a careful examination of the students' work, the Council awarded the prizes as follows:—

The Chalmers Bursary,	DAVID MUIRHEAD.
*Extra Prize for Painting,	ROBERT J. BROUGH.
The Chalmers-Jervise Prize for the Best Drawing from the Life, }	SAMUEL J. PEPLOE.
For the Second Best Drawing from the Life, }	
Maclaine-Watters Medal,	R. EASTON STUART.
Maclaine-Watters Medal,	W. SKINNER.
The Keith Prize,	Equal { DAVID MUIRHEAD. ROBERT BURNS.
The Stuart Prize,	
	ROBERT HOPE.

Mr. R. Easton Stuart is commended for merit in painting, and J. T. Murray and Joseph Brown for Drawing.

VII. At the Annual Assembly of Academicians, held on 9th November 1892, William Garson, Esq., W.S., was appointed Law Agent of the Academy, in room of the late George Bruce, W.S.

VIII. The Academy having, through the President and

* R. J. Brough was awarded the Chalmers Bursary last year. As this Bursary is not given twice to the same Student, and his work this year being of high merit, the Council have awarded him an extra prize.

Council, applied by Petition¹ to the Lords of Council and Session for the appointment of a Judicial Factor on the Trust-Estate in support of "decayed and superannuated Artists," bequeathed by Peter Spalding in 1826, have the satisfaction to report that their Petition was granted by Lord Low on the 18th of February. The selection of Annuitants for this Fund is therefore now placed in the hands of the President and Council.²

IX. The Council regret having to record the death of John Pettie, R.A., one of the most distinguished Honorary Members of the Academy, which took place at Hastings on 20th February, where he was temporarily residing. Born at Edinburgh in 1839, he was partly educated there and afterwards at East Linton, where, at ten years of age, he removed with his father. Having shown a decided taste for drawing, he returned to Edinburgh and became a student of the Board of Trustees School, then under Robert Scott Lauder, R.S.A. Thereafter he passed to the Life School of the Royal Scottish Academy, and in 1859, when in his 20th year, he exhibited for the first time in the Annual Exhibition of the Academy. His works from the beginning attracted attention, and his subsequent career, both in his native city and in London, where he took up his abode in 1863, was one of marked success. Dramatic and historical incidents in the Elizabethan and Cromwellian periods furnished him with material for the greater part of his subjects. Diligent and energetic, he produced numerous works distinguished by skilful draughtsmanship, vigorous

¹ Excerpts from the Academy's Petition will be found in the Appendix.

² An interesting account of the Spalding Fund, in its relation to the Royal Scottish Academy, is given by the late George Monro, Advocate, in his work, "Scottish Art and National Encouragement," published in 1846; and in accordance, so far, with the views entertained by Mr. Monro as to its proper administrators, the patronage of the Fund in regard to the selection of Annuitants has now been conferred on the Academy.

execution, and richness of colour. Latterly he turned much of his time and attention to portrait painting. Although long resident in London, John Pettie was a frequent exhibitor in the Annual Exhibition of the Royal Scottish Academy, where his works were highly appreciated. They will be greatly missed from the walls. He was elected an Associate of the Royal Academy in 1867, and attained the full rank of Academician in 1874. The Royal Scottish Academy, in recognition of his eminent ability as a painter, elected him to the Degree of Honorary Member in 1871.

The Assembly of Academicians, on 1st March, sent to his widow a letter of condolence and sympathy with her and her family in their bereavement ; also, an expression of the high appreciation in which John Pettie was held as an artist, and as a true, generous, and warm-hearted man.

X. The Council have pleasure in reporting that a loyal and humble Address¹ was sent to the Queen, in name of the Academy, on the occasion of the Marriage of His Royal Highness Prince George, Duke of York, and Her Serene Highness Princess Victoria Mary of Teck, and that a gracious acknowledgment of the same was received from Her Majesty.

XI. The Council have to report that, in consequence of the death, at Scarborough, on 22nd October, of the widow of the late James Nasmyth, Engineer, of Hammersfield, Penshurst, Kent, the residue of the munificent bequest made by him to the Academy, to form a Fund for Decayed Scottish Artists, will, in accordance with the terms of the Will, now fall to be paid to the Academy.

(Signed) GEORGE REID,
President.

ROYAL SCOTTISH ACADEMY,
 EDINBURGH, 8th November 1893.

¹ A copy of the Address will be found in the Appendix.

At the Annual Meeting of the Royal Scottish Academy of Painting, Sculpture, and Architecture, held in the Library of the Academy on Wednesday, the 8th of November 1893, the Office-bearers were elected, and the Council declared for the ensuing year, as follows :—

Council.

SIR GEORGE REID, PRESIDENT.

J. DENO VAN ADAM, Esq.

CLARK STANTON, Esq.

D. W. STEVENSON, Esq.

HUGH CAMERON, Esq.

OTTO T. LEYDE, Esq.

W. F. VALLANCE, Esq.

GEORGE HAY, Esq., SECRETARY.

JOHN HUTCHISON, Esq., TREASURER.

D. W. STEVENSON, Esq.,

WILLIAM HOLE, Esq.,

} AUDITORS.

OTTO T. LEYDE, Esq., LIBRARIAN.

J. DENO VAN ADAM, Esq.,

CLARK STANTON, Esq.,

} CURATORS OF LIBRARY.

HUGH CAMERON, Esq.,

WILLIAM HOLE, Esq.,

ROBERT M'GREGOR, Esq.,

ROBERT ALEXANDER, Esq.,

} VISITORS OF THE LIFE SCHOOL.

CLARK STANTON, Esq., CURATOR OF THE LIFE SCHOOL.

APPENDIX.

I.

Address to the Queen.

TO HER MOST GRACIOUS MAJESTY THE QUEEN.

The President, Council, and Members of the Royal Scottish Academy of Painting, Sculpture, and Architecture humbly and respectfully beg to approach your Majesty and offer their loyal congratulation on the occasion of the marriage of your Majesty's beloved grandson His Royal Highness Prince George Duke of York and Her Serene Highness Princess Victoria Mary of Teck.

The Royal Scottish Academy desire to unite in the universal expression of joy and sympathy which has been evoked in the nation by this illustrious union, and they pray that it may bring with it much future happiness, and that your Majesty may be long spared to reign over a loyal, prosperous, and contented people.

Signed in name of the President, Council, and Members of the Royal Scottish Academy.

GEORGE REID, *President.*

GEORGE HAY, *Secretary.*

II.

Excerpts from the Petition of the Royal Scottish Academy.

“Unto the Right Honourable the Lords of Council and Session,
the Petition of the Royal Scottish Academy of Painting,
Sculpture, and Architecture, incorporated by Royal Charter,
—Petitioners ;

“*Humbly Sheweth :—*

“That by trust-disposition and settlement dated 20th July 1825, and registered in the Books of Council and Session the 17th October 1826, the late Peter Spalding of Heriot Row, Edinburgh,

conveyed to the Right Honourable the Earl of Rosebery and others, extraordinary directors of the Institution for the Encouragement of the Fine Arts in Scotland, and the Honourable Baron Clerk-Ratray and others, ordinary directors of said Institution, ‘and to the directors, extraordinary and ordinary, of said Institution succeeding to them in all time hereafter, as trustees for the ends and purposes after-mentioned, three of them to be quorum :’ All and Sundry his lands and heritages, and generally his whole estate, heritable and moveable. The chief purpose of the said trust-disposition was the following :—*Secundo*—

“ ‘ For creating a fund, the interest or annual proceeds whereof to be applied for ever for the support of decayed and superannuated associated artists belonging to the Institution for the Encouragement of the Fine Arts in Scotland, or for any other purpose I may hereafter direct.’ Mr. Spalding gave no further direction. The trustees were appointed executors and given the usual powers, including a power of sale of the heritage. Mr. Spalding died on 26th October 1826, and his estate then devolved upon the said directors, ordinary and extraordinary, as trustees for the purposes above narrated.”

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“ For a number of years the recipients of annuities from the trust-fund were selected by the said directors, they making such enquiries in regard to such case as seemed to them necessary, and selecting the persons whom they considered to be contemplated in the trust-deed. About the year 1861 the directors thought it advisable to alter the method of selection of the annuitants, and to require every application to be accompanied by a recommendation from two members of the Royal Scottish Academy who knew the circumstances of the applicant.”

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“ The number of directors having fallen to two, the then directors,”

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“ on 27th January 1882, presented a Petition to the Court, praying for the appointment of a judicial factor on the trust-estate of the said Peter Spalding, in which Petition your Lordships were pleased

to appoint William Forbes Skene, Writer to the Signet, to be judicial factor on the said estate, with the usual powers.”

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“The said William Forbes Skene followed the practice introduced by the directors of the Royal Institution, and required every application for the benefit of the fund to be accompanied by a recommendation by two members of the Royal Scottish Academy who knew the circumstances of the applicant. As an additional precaution, the said William Forbes Skene latterly submitted the names of applicants to the President and Council of the Academy, and acted on their recommendation. Since 1861, therefore, the selection of the annuitants has been virtually left to the Royal Scottish Academy. Your petitioners think that, in the circumstances, the selection of annuitants should be left entirely to the President and Council of the Academy, and that the factor to be appointed should give effect to their decision on each application.”

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“In consequence of the death of the said William Forbes Skene, it has become necessary to apply to your Lordships to appoint a new factor to manage the estate, with power to him to make up a title to the said Heritable Securities, in terms of section 44 of ‘The Conveyancing (Scotland) Act, 1874,’ and to the moveable estate hereinbefore mentioned.”

“The petitioners would respectfully suggest William Garson, Writer to the Signet, Edinburgh, as a fit and proper person to be appointed judicial factor in room and place of the said deceased William Forbes Skene.”

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“As also to authorise and ordain the said William Garson, or such other person as your Lordships may appoint as judicial factor fore-said, to submit all future applications for the benefit of the said fund to the President and Council of the Royal Scottish Academy, and to give effect to their decision on such applications.”



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